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USSR

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DISCUSSION WITH CRAWFORD ON MEMBERS
OF AUSTRALIAN LABOUR GOVERNMENT (1945)

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

No: 233

21 July 1945

To VIKTOR. [1] 8th Department.

In a conversation with me John CRAWFORD - head of the Research Department of the Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction (his brother was first secretary in the Australian Legation in the USSR), while on the subject of CHIFLEY, who filled the place of leader of the Labour Party and Prime-Minister after CURTIN's death, said that the latter stood between the centre and the left wing of the party and was more progressive than CURTIN. After CURTIN CHIFLEY was [B% the most] suitable [B% candidate] for the transitional period from war to peace. In C's [K.] opinion CHIFLEY has a number of qualities which make him outstanding among Labour people: a clear mind, furthermore strength of will, also [5 groups unrecovered] boldness and decisiveness in carrying out measures in hand. In the past he was

[12 groups unrecovered]

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

it is doubtful whether CHIPLEY's government will be successful in the 1946 elections. By the introduction

[53 groups unrecoverable]

[C% savings] in the banks. If Labour is not successful in the 1946 election, then their bills[a] will remain [1 group unrecovered] papers. Speaking of other members of the government C. said that the extreme right wing of the Labour Party is headed by BEASLEY who is fully in agreement with LANG in the struggle against the Soviet Union and the Communist Party [KAMPARTIYA[sic!]]. The Labour centre is headed by EVATT. On the left wing there is WARD.

No. 54

EFIM[11]

T.N.: [a] ZAKONOPROEKTY: i.e. bills before Parliament.

Comments: [i] Lt.-Gen. P.M. FITIN.

[ii] Semen Ivanovich MAKAROV.

[iii] John CRAWFORD

[iv] CHIPLEY

[v] CURTIN

[vi] BEASLEY Presumably John Albert BEASLEY, Labour P. Member

[? not id/w BEASLEY d 1/41, 17035, who is prob Harold Jack BEASLEY, CFA resigning]

[vii] LANG

[viii] EVATT

[ix] WARD